

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 02126 151538Z
ACTION NEA-10

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----- 011919 /41
R 150925Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3961

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 2126

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : ASCH, BA

NEA/ARP FOR TWINAM

A/OS FOR PARSONS

SUBJECT : FUTURE OF BAHRAIN SCHOOL

REF : DODDS WASHDC DTG 191700Z NOV 76

1. REFTEL, BEING REPEATED TO DEPT, STATES THAT ON DEC 1 DR. CARDINALE WAS TO HAVE MET WITH DEPSECDEF CLEMENTS AND RECOMMENDED THAT DOD CONTINUE ITS OPERATION OF ALL ELEMENTS OF BAHRAIN SCHOOL. IMPLICATION WAS CLEAR THAT CARDINALE'S RECOMMENDATIONS WERE MEANT TO APPLY WHETHER OR NOT MIDEASTFOR LEAVES BAHRAIN. REFTEL WAS REPEATED TO CHUSMTM DHAHRAN BY USCINCEUR ON NOV. 23 AND TO COMIDEASTFOR BY CHUSMTM ON NOV. 27. COMIDEASTFOR INFORMED EMBASSY DEC. 13. NEITHER COMIDEASTFOR NOR DR. WANNEBO OF BAHRAIN SCHOOL CERTAIN THAT CARDINALE ACTUALLY MADE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CLEMENTS OR, IF HE DID, WHAT STATUS THEY NOW MAY HAVE WITHIN DOD.

2. CARDINALE'S RECOMMENDATIONS OF COURSE ARISE FROM CHUSMTM'S UNDERSTANDABLE DESIRE FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF BAHRAIN SCHOOL'S BOARDING FACILITY, A DESIRE WHICH CERTAINLY WAS IMPRESSED ON CLEMENTS DURING HIS OCT VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA. EMBASSY BELIEVES CHUSMTM NOW IN U.S. ON CONSULTATION AND,
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AS AMBASSADOR REPORTED BY LETTER NOV. 30 TO TWINAM, BG AHMANN

HOPES TO DISCUSS SCHOOL ISSUE WITH CLEMENTS.

3. PUTTING ASIDE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS RAISED BY IDEA OF DOD OPERATION OF SCHOOL AFTER MIDEASTFOR WITHDRAWAL, IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR GOOD OF THE SCHOOL THAT ISSUE OF ITS FUTURE BE DECIDED VERY SOON AND WITH FINALITY. PRESENT DOD SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION, BAHRAIN SCHOOL TRUST, AND COMIDEASTFOR CANNOT REMAIN IN THE DARK MUCH LONGER IF ORDERLY AND SUCCESSFUL TRANSFER OF SCHOOL TO TRUST AND WITHDRAWAL OF SCHOOL'S DOD STAFF IS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED. PARTIES HERE PRESENTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR SCHOOL AND THOSE WHO ARE MOVING AHEAD WITH PLANS TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY NEED TO KNOW JUST WHAT DOD INTENTIONS ARE.

4. IF DOD WISHES TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE SCHOOL IN SUPPORT OF USMTM, REGARDLESS OF MIDEASTFOR'S FUTURE, NOW IS THE TIME FOR FIRM DECISION WHICH THIS EMBASSY AND EMBASSY JIDDA, SINCE CARDINALE ALSO HAD IDEA THAT SAG SHOULD PAY FOR USMTM'S BOARDING STUDENTS, CAN DISCUSS WITH OUR HOST GOVERNMENTS. IF, ON OTHER HAND, CARDINALE'S SWEEPING RECOMMENDATIONS REFLECT NO MORE THAN SPIRIT OF OPTIMISM RESULTING FROM CLEMENTS' INTEREST DURING HIS VISIT, WITH LITTLE OR NO LIKELIHOOD OF REALIZATION, THEN WE NEED TO KNOW THIS.

5. BAHRAIN SCHOOL TRUST CONTINUES TO MOVE TOWARD TIME, JUNE 1977, WHEN IT EXPECTS TO ASSUME CONTROL FROM DOD. ACCORDING BROWN AND ROOT CONSULTANT I. W. USSERY, HERE FOR THE PURPOSE, GOB WILL APPROVE AND ISSUE SCHOOL'S CHARTER AS PRIVATE INSTITUTION "WITHIN TWO WEEKS". USSERY'S REPORT BASED ON CONVERSATION DEC. 13 WITH FONMIN, TO WHOM PRIME MINISTER HAS DELEGATED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS ISSUE. SCHOOL TRUST'S SUPERINTENDENT-IN-PLACE, DR. FOSNOT, PLANS STAFF RECRUITING TRIP TO US IN JANUARY, PROBABLY BEGINNING JUST AFTER JAN 5 MEETING OF BAHRAIN SCHOOL TRUST BOARD.

6. IN ADDITION PROBLEMS OUTLINED ABOVE, FUTURE OF BAHRAIN SCHOOL WILL BE AFFECTED BY RECENTLY PROMULGATED REVISED GOB REGULATIONS GOVERNING PRIVATE SCHOOLS, WHICH APPARENTLY WOULD APPLY WHETHER BAHRAIN SCHOOL RUN BY DOD OR PRIVATE TRUST. AMONG NUMEROUS PROVISIONS REQUIRING MINED APPROVAL
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FOR VARIETY OF SCHOOL DECISIONS -- INCLUDING ON FEES AND CURRICULA -- NEW LAW INCLUDES SUCH POTENTIALLY TROUBLESOME REQUIREMENT AS ONE THAT STATES THAT "TEXT BOOKS, PERIODICALS, CIRCULARS, SYLLABI AND SCHOOL LIBRARY BOOKS MUST NOT CONTAIN ANY MATTER CONTRARY TO RELIGIOUS SENTIMENTS AND ACCEPTED TRADITIONS OF THE COUNTRY, OR CONTAIN ANY INFORMATIVE MATERIAL FOR THE BENEFIT OF A COUNTRY OPPOSED TO OR IN A STATE OF WAR WITH THE STATE OF BAHRAIN." COPIES OF NEW REGULATIONS BEING

POUCHED TO NEA/ARP AND A/OS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPT ASCERTAIN AND ADVISE AS TO
DOD PLANS RE BAHRAIN SCHOOL AND URGE THAT DOD MAKE ITS
DECISION FINAL SO PLANNING HERE CAN GO FORWARD ON RATIONAL
BASIS. WOULD APPRECIATE REPLY WELL PRIOR JAN 5 MEETING OF
BAHRAIN SCHOOL TRUST BOARD. DEPT MAY WISH REPEAT THIS AND
REFTEL TO EMBASSY JIDDA.
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